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**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-15-36
July 31, 2015****LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE****PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice and hold a public hearing on the issuance of this permit. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau address or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant:	Montanore Minerals
Facility Name:	Montanore Project
Facility Location:	Upper Libby Creek Drainage Libby, MT 59923
County:	Lincoln
Receiving Waters:	Libby Creek and alluvial ground water Ramsey Creek Poorman Creek
Permit Number:	MT0030279

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is issuing a tentative determination to reissue the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit for the Montanore Project, a proposed copper-silver mine near Libby, MT. The draft permit is for the discharge of treated adit water at three existing outfalls (Outfalls 001-003) and at four new storm water only outfalls (Outfalls 004-008). The draft permit updates existing effluent limits at Outfalls 001-003 and establishes additional effluent limits at Outfalls 001-003 for the parameters total dissolved solids, total ammonia, nitrate + nitrite, and total nitrogen. The draft permit also establishes effluent limits at Outfalls 004-008 for the parameters oil & grease and pH. As part of an approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the draft permit establishes a Waste Load Allocation (WLA) of 24 tons/year for the parameter total suspended solids (TSS) that is applicable to all discharges from the facility. Under the draft permit, monitoring and reporting of the following is required: the effluent at Outfalls 001-003, storm water discharges at Outfalls 004-008, and ambient conditions in Libby Creek. The

draft permit also requires the facility to establish Best Management Practices (BMPs) and to perform an optimization study.

A public hearing will be held on the draft permit at 6:00 PM on August 31, 2015, in the Ponderosa Room of the Libby City Hall located at 952 East Spruce Street in Libby, MT 59923; DEQ will record public comments on the draft permit during the public hearing.

DEQ has completed a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a draft EIS for the Montanore Project. This information is available at the following DEQ website:

<http://deq.mt.gov/eis.mcp>

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS September 2, 2015. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS September 2, 2015 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

A public hearing will be held on the draft wastewater discharge permit, the fact sheet, and the Department's tentative determination at 6:00 PM on August 31, 2015, in the Ponderosa Room of the Libby City Hall located at 952 East Spruce Street in Libby, MT 59923.

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The administrative record, including the permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Jenna Stamper no later than **August 15, 2015**, to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You can call Jenna at 444-3080 or write to her at the address noted to make your request known.

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